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Column One in David Courney

THE atomic bomb is no secret. It is becoming evident that others besides the Americans are either producing it or are on the way to production. The Russians are believed to be well advanced and the British, according to a Press Association report, are now making their own bombs. Mr. Younger, Minister of State, was questioned on the subject and replied: "It is incorrect to say that Britain does not know how to manufacture the atom bomb." That means she does know and implies pretty clearly that she is busy manufacturing this weapon. The nature of the nice art of atomic armament construction is still full of mystery. There is no foreseeable end or boundary to it. When Senator Peron claims possession of the secret and of a technical process of exceptional simplicity, who is to deny his claim?

THE Americans are worried about the reports of competitive atomic development. They have expressed some disbelief of the Argentine claims and more doubt of the reports from London. Russia they cannot help; but on the supposed Russian stockpile, too, they are sceptical. Their disbelief and doubt are probably due in part to their anxiety to keep this formidable power-weapon in their own hands. In the present world system, the atom bomb stands in relation to national hopes and fears where once stood gold. The atom-bomb standard has taken the place of the gold-standard and those who are well stocked with this armament are in a position to dictate their own terms to those who are not.

THE dispersal of the secret has therefore put the emphasis on quantity. The U.S. has just laid down a new atomic production plant near Denver, Colorado. It is to employ 1,000 people and highly secret operations and should be ready to start production some time next year. There would appear to be plenty of the raw material needed. A fresh supply of uranium ore, of low-grade quality but just right for producing atom bombs, has been found in deposits of black sand washed on to the Californian beaches by water that streams off the High Sierra mountains.

IT is not surprising that the Americans should have been kept in the dark about Senator Peron's atomic ambitions. But it is odd that they should not know what to make of the British claims. Their doubts on this score emphasize the lack of any genuine cooperation on atomic energy development between the United States and Britain. If there is any sense at all in making atom bombs and saving them up against the day of final catastrophe, and if there is anything fundamental in the Anglo-American alliance upon which we are told, our liberties and — less surely — our lives depend, it would seem wholly unnecessary for Britain to compete with America in the production of atomic armament. It is hard to see Britain involved in an atomic war without America; and there would seem to be no reason for supposing that America alone cannot make all the atom bombs any alliance is likely to be able to use. It has been pointed out that the burden of atom-bomb-making upon the engineering and chemical resources of Britain, would be enormous; and that, in any case, Britain could not hope to produce them on the relatively cheap "mass-production" system towards which America is moving.

ONE attempts to write all these things down in cold blood as if it were a matter of automobiles or aircraft; or of atomic energy for industrial purposes; or of common law and constructive sense one way or another. But with every word and every statistic and every flash of the heretofore imagination one realizes that what is written is written in the terms of a suicidal madness. Even madness becomes a habit. The more of it there is, the fewer there are in notice. The more atom bombs there are, from Argentina to Britain, from New Mexico to the Urals, the less the hideousness of the whole thing strikes at brain or conscience and the reader we make ourselves and our neighbours for the fine heart-rendering act.

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U.S. Will Gag MacArthur

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (UP). — Reliable sources reported today that friction between Washington and General MacArthur is being "cleared up" by important behind-the-scenes negotiations. These sources said the following moves are in progress: Firstly, MacArthur is being instructed to clear with there were indications in Washington all statements touching on diplomacy as it relates to the Korean fighting.

Secondly, the U.S. has handed the 13 other nations fighting in Korea a draft of a major policy statement on Korea aimed at clarifying the U.N. war objectives. The White House declined all comment on the matter.

The friction between Washington and MacArthur stemmed from the latter's week-end "peace" statement on the Korean war. His controversial offer to meet the Chinese field commanders prompted questions by allies of the U.S. concerning its policy.

Clear All Statements

Last December, the White House instructed diplomatic representatives and military commanders at home and abroad to clear all foreign policy statements in advance with the State Department. While Cabinet members and five-star generals have complied, it is apparent that at least in this case General MacArthur failed to do so.

Acheson Calls For Joint Defence U.N. Line Levelled Below Parallel

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, (Reuters). — Mr. Dean Acheson, U.S. Secretary of State, today urged American republics to prepare a coordinated defence plan to meet "the menace of Soviet Russia's new imperialism."

Addressing the first regular session of the Inter-American Conference of Foreign Ministers, he advocated an examination of internal security measures and a strengthening of basic democratic institutions throughout the hemisphere.

He declared that no free nation anywhere in the world was secure against the menace created by international Communism and called for more economic and military cooperation with the United States.

In considering military strength, he said, any disturbance to the peaceful relations of the republics would be detrimental and hence all should "make fullest use of available machinery for the peaceful settlement of disputes."

Big Four Deputies Hear New Proposal

PARIS, Tuesday (Reuters). — American Deputy Philip Jessup today added a new item to the agenda for the Big Four Foreign Ministers as proposed by the West — a discussion of the Balkan peace treaties.

At the 18th meeting of the Foreign Ministers' deputies here today, he proposed the following item should be added: "Treaties of peace with Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary, including their provisions on human rights, their military clauses and their clauses on the settlement of disputes."

24 Dead, Missing In Plane Crashes

BUENOS AIRES, Tuesday (Reuters). — An Argentine State Airlines plane en route to Buenos Aires crashed in Terra del Fuego yesterday, killing 18 passengers and injuring four.

In Manchester, England, the pilot and navigator of a Belfast-bound Dakota were killed when the plane crashed shortly after taking off this morning.

U.S. Atlantic Fleet H.Q. reported today that a U.S. Naval torpedo bomber carrying a crew of four crashed in the Atlantic last night. No survivors have so far been found.

A plane en route from Paris to pick up Defence Minister Jules Moch at Marseilles, crashed and exploded near Moun, France, today with three men aboard. First reports said that sabotage appeared unlikely, as the plane was assigned 20 minutes before the take-off.

In London, U.S. Air Force officials said today that more than 100 U.S. planes, including 60 from the aircraft-carrier "Coral Sea," are searching for the "Gloster" transport plane which crashed in the Atlantic on Friday while ferrying 53 officers and men to Britain.

Major Share Of Budget Surplus Goes to Defence

The Knesset yesterday appropriated IL2,499,000 out of surpluses in the state budget of the outgoing fiscal year and also voted that whatever surpluses remain shall be appropriated for security. It is thus expected that the IL15,000,000 appropriation for security in the outgoing budget will be increased by more than IL2,000,000 and the secret part of the defence budget will be reduced accordingly.

The surpluses allocated last night come from three sources: IL1,100,000 from the Food Division of the Ministry of Agriculture which were last night earmarked for subsidizing essential foods; IL180,000 from the Post Office, which was earmarked for improvements, mostly in the parcel post service; and IL2,219,000 from taxes and services, including IL1,800,000 from income tax, IL219,000 from the Land Registry and IL200,000 from other services.

Prizes Assured

The IL2,219,000 was distributed amongst various ministries, including IL25,000 to the Prime Minister to enable him to meet his pledges of IL100 prizes to mothers bearing their tenth child; IL100,000 to the Finance Ministry to pay for additional personnel for the Income and Luxury Tax departments; IL36,000 to the Ministry of Health as a grant for "Hagadah"; IL100,000 to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs for political activities on behalf of Jerusalem; and IL475,000 to the Ministry.

New Budget Moves Against Inflation

The main feature of the IL2,499,000 six months interim budget to be voted upon in the Knesset today, is the proposed appropriation of IL12,500,000 for security. This represents a large increase over the outgoing year as the appropriation in the ordinary (12-month) budget had been IL15,000,000. In 1949/1950, the figure had been IL7,500,000.

Two Gamblers Jailed By U.S. Probe Group

WASHINGTON, Tuesday (UP). — A Senate committee investigating the link between crime and city government throughout this country ordered two gamblers held on \$10,000 bond last night after they refused to testify before television cameras, newsmen and radio microphones.

On the advice of their counsel, Morris Kleinman and Leon Rothkopf refused to open their mouths after the committee rejected their demand that the klieg lights, television and radio apparatus be shut off. Kleinman, before being led away, read a statement in which he protested that he was not an "actor or public speaker."

Knesset to Act on Women's Rights Bill Before Recess

Action will be taken in the Knesset before the Passover recess next month on legislation for women's rights.

This was assured yesterday after Mrs. Rachel Kagan (Wizo) introduced a private member's bill, designed mainly to take control of alimony away from religious courts. Justice Minister Pinchas Rosen then announced that an Equal Rights bill was on the Cabinet's agenda for tomorrow, and he therefore proposed the shelving Mrs. Kagan's bill.

The Mapam members who supported Mrs. Kagan urged her not to withdraw her bill, and she declined to do so. Mr. Rosen could assure that his bill would be brought to the Knesset within a specific time. Mr. Rosen said he could not guarantee that the Cabinet would reach a decision this week.

Gov't Asks For July 10 Election

The Cabinet decided at a special meeting in Jerusalem yesterday to suggest Tuesday, July 10 (Tammuz 6), as the date for new Knesset elections.

The distribution of portfolios of those Ministers who will be absent from Israel in the near future was also decided upon. The Minister of Justice will take the Interior portfolio; Foreign Affairs will attend to Health and Immigration; Finance will take Trade and Industry; Agriculture will take Labour; and the Prime Minister will take over the Communications Ministry.

The Ministers of Agriculture and Finance were empowered to hold shares in the name of the State in the Israel Agricultural Bank. The shares are to be taken up within the limits of the budget.

Opposition Attacks Iran Martial Law

TEHRAN, Tuesday, (Reuters). — General Hussein Hejazi, Military Governor of Teheran, said today that martial law and "other immediate measures" had stopped panic and were helping to restore order and security. At the same time, the National Front opposition group issued a communique declaring that the premier, Husein Ala and imposition of martial law were "illegal and serving only the interests of British spies."

Former Premier Hurt In Beirut Clash

A former Lebanese Premier, Sami Solh, was injured by a bullet fired during his election meeting in his house yesterday. NEABS reports. Several others have been killed and injured in frequent Beirut pre-election clashes during the last week.

The Lebanese police, meanwhile, has banned election meetings of the right-wing Syrian Social Party and the Communist Workers Party.

New Syrian Cabinet Formed

A new coalition Cabinet was formed in Damascus yesterday by Khaled Bey el Azem and approved by President Attazi, thus ending Syria's 18-day-old Cabinet crisis. The new Cabinet contains no members of the A-Shaab Party, which with 53 seats out of 114 is the largest party in Parliament. The Cabinet still has to obtain the necessary vote of confidence in Parliament.

Khaled Bey, who has failed in two previous attempts to form a Cabinet, retained for himself the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in addition to the Premiership. The other six Cabinet members are newcomers except for two ex-Ministers: Sami Kahana, now Minister of Interior, and Col. Fawzi Selu, Minister of Defence.

Marking of Guvrin Area Completed

A subcommittee of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission yesterday completed the demarcation of the boundary in the Bet Guvrin area west of Hebron. It followed the work of a mixed team of surveyors who had marked off the area following a number of incidents.

It is understood that the meeting was repetitions and repeatedly went over exchanges between the two sides at previous meetings of the Israel-Syrian M.A.C.

Huleh Dredging Under Syrian Fire, Tractor Driver Wounded

By S. Shapiro, POST Reporter

ROSH PINA, Tuesday. — A tractor driver was seriously wounded and two tractors and a police vehicle were immobilised today when Syrians fired intermittently from upon until 4 p.m. at workers on the Huleh drainage project in the demilitarised zone.

Before the firing began U.N. Observers were seen entering the zone. Soon after they entered, many of the 750 Arabs living in the area were observed to be moving away from the Israeli side closer toward Syrian territory.

About noon a tractor began working near the Jordan. It was subjected to heavy fire from a Syrian position about 600 metres away, and was damaged. When a second tractor continued the work, fire was resumed, and the driver wounded in the head.

A police vehicle going to his rescue and flying a white flag was hit by some 30 Arab bullets. There were reports that one of the policemen was wounded, but these were not confirmed.

The wounded man was brought out by an ambulance an hour and a half after he was hit.

Two aeroplanes were sighted flying high over the area, but they could not be identified. One plane flew over the area yesterday.

Flagrant Breach

In Tel Aviv tonight a military spokesman noted that the workers engaged in the Huleh were fired on by persons from the Syrian side of the border, and also by Arab villagers within the demilitarised zone who aided the Syrians in their attacks.

The spokesman added: "We regard these attacks, which have been launched from Syrian territory during the last three days, and which have been witnessed by representatives of the U.N. as a flagrant breach of the Armistice Agreement."

Israel has submitted a number of complaints on these attacks to the Chairman of the Israel-Syrian M.A.C. the spokesman added.

An informal meeting between high ranking Israeli and Syrian officers on the state of tension prevailing in the central portion of the no-man's-land between the two countries will be held today following yesterday's inconclusive five-hour session.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by the Deputy Chief of Staff, Aboof M. Makleff; Mr. Y. Palmon, Head of the Minorities Department in the Prime Minister's Office, Sgan-Aloof Shaul Ramati, and Rav-Seren Ze'ev Shoham, for Israel; and the Syrian Deputy Chief of Staff, Col. Adib Shishakli, Major Jid and Major el Kudai, for Syria. U.N. officers were present at the meeting.

Gold Bourse Closes Down

TEL AVIV, Tuesday. — No business was done on the "gold bourse" here today, following yesterday's Knesset declaration by Finance Minister E. Kaplan that dealing in gold would be banned.

The sign "Fine Metal Dealers Association" was removed early this morning, and former members gathered on the pavements in Rehov Herzl and Rehov Lillienblum to discuss their future. The announcement of the ban was not unexpected, and many members pointed out that the sudden rise in the price of sovereigns was due to panicking by non-members in whose hands many of the coins are now believed to be concentrated.

Change Gazetted

The Official Gazette containing the "Emergency Regulations Amending the Defence Regulations (Finance) 1951," dated yesterday, was published here today. The amendment authorizes the Minister of Finance or by other officials in his name to deal in gold. Gold articles are not included in the ban.

Any person found dealing illegally in gold is liable to have the gold confiscated and is liable to punishment similar to that meted out to persons illegally dealing in foreign currency.

IRAQ STATEMENT TO JEWS WHO STAY

"Jews who remain in Iraq will be treated exactly as every other Iraqi citizen, and will have nothing to fear," according to an official government statement issued in Baghdad yesterday.

The statement warned, however, that it was advisable for Jews not to become involved in any actions that might lead to suspicions against them. "You must be loyal to the state in every way," they were told.

AFTER MIDNIGHT

United States Secretary of Defense General Marshall, followed by a press conference last night that any general advance of U.N. forces over the 5th Parallel in the Korean War was "a matter for political consideration." The statement was expected to reassure those who feared that Gen. MacArthur might order a general advance over the Parallel without specific authorization and political discussion by the United States.

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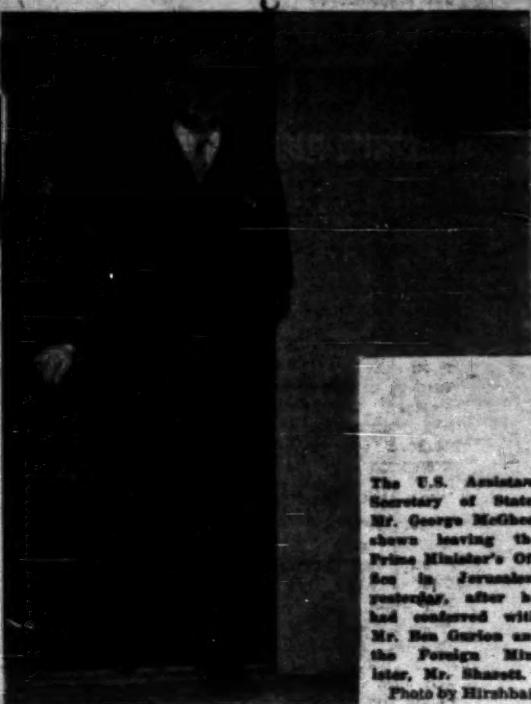
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McGHEE SEES PRIME MINISTER



The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. George McGhee, shown leaving the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday, after he had conferred with Mr. Ben-Gurion and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Shazar.

WAR MATERIAL USED TO CANCEL STERLING BALANCES COMMONS ATTACKS EGYPT'S SUEZ BLOCKADE

Britain's supply of war materials to Egypt and the blockade of the Haifa Refinery were aired in the course of the House of Commons debate on the release of Egyptian sterling balances last Tuesday. This necessary is based on "The Times" report of the debate.

Mr. Eden (Warwick and Leamington, C.) initiated a debate on the recent agreement to release Egyptian sterling balances. He said that there was a report from Cairo today which showed some modification of the restrictions on shipping through the Suez Canal, but the more he probed the agreement the more anxious he became about the position the country would find itself in as a result of it. The agreement was one which the House ought not to be asked to accept.

He (Mr. Eden) did not consider, if the Government admitted the concessions were valuable, that this was the moment they should be made unless the Egyptian Government modified the manner in which it had treated British interests in the past year. (Opposition cheers.) An important financial arrangement like this could not be divorced from the general political relation between the countries. (Renewed Opposition cheers.) He was not moved by the argument that there had been earlier agreements with Egypt over oil. Now was the time to say that there would be no more concessions until British rights were safeguarded and treated with respect.

Mr. Eden stressed the strain which the new arrangement with Egypt would place on the British economy. The British economy could not afford to support the Egyptian Government's unrequited exports today than at any time since 1945, because of the rearmament programme.

Mr. Cresswell (Coventry, East, Lab.) hoped that the export licensing policy would be so planned that none of the money to be released to Egypt could be used for the purchase of arms.

Mr. Churchill. — A destroyer which is being finished here, and which we need for our anti-submarine defence, is to be sent to Egypt, and as I understand it, instead of our getting any return for this important export a line is drawn through a part of our so-called sterling balances. (Opposition cheers.)

Mr. Cresswell said that confirmed the need for an assurance that the release of these balances would be accompanied by a change of policy by the new Foreign Secretary in the matter of export licences. For many months Britain was deprived of the dollar-earning capacity of the Haifa refinery, and it was ironic that the country which had done this had been given special privileges to prevent her losing dollars in order to buy oil. Turning the other cheek was a noble ethical principle, but he did not think it was understood in the Middle East. It was regarded not as generosity, but as weakness. Every Middle East country would be judging the agreement fairly or unfairly, especially the oil clause, by saying: "Some more Danegeld for the British for the Egyptians." (Opposition and some Ministerial cheers.) Israel, Jordan, and Turkey did not appreciate that friendship and loyalty were repaid by their being given less because their price was not so high. (Opposition cheers.) There would come a time when in Persia they would take the line that if they wanted to squeeze more out of oil they would have to take the line of being really hostile to Britain. Britain had rewarded its enemies and adjudicated always against its friends. It was a disheartening situation, but he hoped that the oil clause represented the last lack of a dying policy, a policy which had utterly failed and which left some of the supporters of the Government below the gangway in some difficulty.

In any normal circumstances it would be difficult to support the agreement. (Opposition cheers.) — but there was a new regime at the Foreign Office, and they wanted it to have a chance — (laughter and cheers) — in the hope that the new Foreign Secretary would not permit the Chancellor to say "These are purely financial affairs." He should say "No, in the Middle East, the purely financial is the most highly political. In the Middle East I must have a concerted, coordinated policy." It was with that hope that he would vote with the Government on this matter.

Much more had been set by the claim that the agreement was purely financial and had no political implications. It did grant the Egyptian Government important concessions, and the Treasury representative in Cairo had not seemed to agree in all respects with the claim.

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Mr. Churchill said it would have been better if it was wanted to enforce it to have been able to say that the Egyptians had been told at the time. What sort of an impression would unilateral cancellation of the debts have created should the nation have arisen in future? What attitude would Egypt or any other country, from whom Britain might want to buy things in similar circumstances in any future war, have adopted if they knew that after the previous one a sterling debt was repaid?

U.N. Tax Troubles

By David Wesley

WITH the passing of the year's first quarter, governments represented at the U.N. start worrying about the current carrying charges, even though they have until the year's end to pay up.

Like the income taxes paid to the local collector, the international tithe system includes a dizzying sliding-scale of responsibility. The U.N. started right off with a so-called rich assessment system. Hence, although they both have exactly the same vote and theoretically equal powers in the world organization, the United States pays a yearly toll of \$13,500,000 while Nicaragua is charged \$13,500.

out paying up, nine Latin American states and four Arab countries, for example, have so far failed to pay their 1950 import or have made only token payments.

Three members still are in arrears also on their 1949 assessment. Uruguay owes one-third of its 1949 tax, and Paraguay owes the whole sum except for five cents. The \$0.5 appears as a credit for that much overpayment of its 1948 assessment.

The third nation is one of the Big Five veto powers and the most deeply in arrears of any U.N. member — Nationalist China. The exiled Chiang Kai-shek regime, which has been hanging onto its U.N. seat mostly through United States favour, is slowly losing its grip on that seat nevertheless by its inability to meet the financial requirements of membership — a fact that is heading the United States for considerable embarrassment at the end of the present year, if China doesn't pay up.

The U.N. Charter states that a member, unless specifically reprieved by Assembly action, loses its vote in the General Assembly "if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years." Nationalist China owes nearly \$2,000,000 on its 1949 assessment and the entire 1950 tax of \$2,050,000. If it reaches Jan. 1, 1952, without dropping into the U.N. funds a sum significantly greater than the 1949 arrears, the Assembly will have to vote to allow it to keep its vote in the organization — which is not likely. (ONA)

Based on Solvency

Since the assessments were figured out, like most taxes, on the basis of ability to pay, presumably the U.N. tax scale provides one of the most reliable indexes to the degree of solvency of the 60 nations belonging to U.N. More of the poor come from rich Uncle Sam's backyard than anywhere else. At the bottom of the ladder (\$13,500 tax), besides Nicaragua, are Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, Liberia, Paraguay and Yemen. On the next rung (\$17,085) are Afghanistan, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Luxembourg and Panama.

But even the sliding-scale is not enough to ease the strain on the poorer nations. It is these who are most consistently in arrears. While the big and important members — the United States, the Soviet bloc, France, the British Commonwealth countries — are careful not to let a calendar year end with-

out paying up, nine Latin American states and four Arab countries, for example, have so far failed to pay their 1950 import or have made only token payments.

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Three-quarters of the capacity of the Haifa refinery had been idle for two years; the loss in output amounted to about \$20m. a year, which the Egyptian Government was expected from Britain and others by its unjustifiable action, which, it was admitted, the British Government had condemned. (Opposition cheers.)

Egypt should be asked to desist from inflicting serious injury on British interests, and should be insisted on before the agreement came into force. (Opposition cheers.)

The United Nations were discussing the matter was no reason why Britain should not try to get a settlement for itself, or take action to make the boudoir with New York's skyscrapers in the background.

The place is a 20-minute's drive with a telephone as the chief comic actor: It insists on ringing just when a gentleman is about to reveal his true feelings towards an attractive lady. This lady, however, is much more attracted by the telephone with the possibilities of gossip which it offers. Finally, the gentleman hits on the idea of leaving the lady to go and call her from a telephone booth! Curtain.

The libretto (also by Menotti) and music proved to be a charming synthesis. There are some ironical imitations in the score (the duet finale à la Verdi, for instance), and some musical jokes, like the sentimental notes which accompany the dialling of the telephone.

The performance was excellent, with Rebecca Axelford and versatile Yehoshua Zohar in the principal roles. The Hebrew translation by Ephraim Dror was well done. On the forthcoming tour through Israel the two singers will alternate with Shoshana Shoshan and Nissim Ron.

MUSICAL DIARY

THE programme of Yehudi Menuhin's piano recital, under the auspices of "Nativ" Society for Israel Art and Culture, at the Y.M.C.A. on Monday night, once more showed the mark of a vivid personality. Mozart's Adagio in B minor; Menuetto in D major and Gigue in G major were given a contemplative interpretation, without any undue lightness. Beethoven's Sonata op. 111 was also interpreted profoundly with a highly intellectual approach. Another masterpiece of piano-music, Brahms' Paganini variations, was played with dramatic contrasts of tone. A Nocturne by Chopin was presented movingly.

Contemporary Music Centre at the Shulamith Conservatoire Hall on Friday afternoon the programme was even more entertaining.

It opened with Six Israel Dances for piano duo, by Haim Alexander — which had a certain formal distinction, and strongly marked rhythm. Herbert Brün and the composer were the performers. Francis Poulenc's "Story of Babar the Elephant," with words by Jean de Brunhoff followed. The Hebrew translation was by Ephraim Dror, who gave the heroes of the story the appropriate names of Pilon, Pilon, and Pilon. It is a story, half-happy, half-sad, charmingly conceived by the author and wittily illustrated by the composer. The narrator, Yehoshua Zohar, was an effectively comic narrator and Herbert Brün played the piano part.

The highlight of the concert was the appearance of Vronsky and Babin who stepped on to the platform to present the premiere of "David and Goliath," eleven Bible scenes for piano duo by Victor Babin. Both artists gave a delicate rendition of this fine, descriptive little work. Hanna Ben-Ari was the narrator.

Purim Concerts

During the Purim holidays Tel Aviv offered a variety of music, much of which was amusing.

Walter Goshw with the "Kol Israel" Orchestra performed Saint-Saens' "Carnaval des Animaux" at the Ohel Hall on Thursday. The imitation and character portraits of animals are ingeniously conceived, and evoked much laughter.

Another item on the programme was a performance of Schubert's B major symphony, written when the composer was 19. As a result of the penetrating and analytical work of the conductor, the orchestra revealed the full rhythmic and melodious joyfulness of this symphony. The second part of the programme consisted of works by Offenbach, Hannan Schlesinger, and Johann Strauss.

Menotti Miniature

At the conclusion of this remarkable programme, Menotti's famous opera, "The Telephone," received its first performance in Israel. Except that there was no orchestra — Eytan Lustig conducted from the piano — the production was authentic, with a stage set representing a sophisticated boudoir with New York's skyscrapers in the background.

The place is a 20-minute's drive with a telephone as the chief comic actor: It insists on ringing just when a gentleman is about to reveal his true feelings towards an attractive lady. This lady, however, is much more attracted by the telephone with the possibilities of gossip which it offers. Finally, the gentleman hits on the idea of leaving the lady to go and call her from a telephone booth! Curtain.

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Lord Dunscombe (Lanark, C.) said the Chancellor of the Exchequer seemed to hold the view that Britain should fulfill her obligations as a good neighbour while Egypt flouted the letter and spirit of her engagements. He was giving away his greatest bargaining factor. Although there was much good in the agreement it was ill-timed. There was no excuse for proceeding with it until the United Nations organization had inquired into the matter of the Suez Canal and until more general talks were begun in which Britain could safeguard her wider interests.

Mr. T. Reid (Swindon, Lab.) said that having secured a financial settlement Egypt should now engage in negotiating a settlement of problems outstanding between the two countries.

Mr. Clement Davies (Montgomery, L.) said that now the Government realised the views of the House, that it did not like this agreement or the way it had been made — (cheers) — that it disliked the policy followed by the Government in the Middle East — (cheers) — and the tenderness with regard to Egypt and its intransigence with regard to Israel and the general interest of helping Israel, Transjordan, and others to come to an agreement; there was a feeling in that part of the world that the Government had rather discouraged them at the request of Egypt. (Cheers.)

Therefore, he agreed with all the epithets that had been thrown at the Government. Was there a change of policy now that they had a new Foreign Secretary? If there was, would this agreement be signed in spite of the opinion of the House, or would it be withheld until further negotiations

on a broader basis which dealt with all those matters which arose in the Middle East, and then be submitted to the House so that the House could judge for itself? (Cheers.)

MR. GEORFFREY LLOYD (Birmingham, King's Norton, C.) said that there was a really extraordinary consensus of agreement that the oil agreement was the most objectionable feature. Britain had lost 11,000,000 tons of oil through the unfortunate position of the Haifa refinery and the action of the Egyptian Government over the Suez Canal. That represented 25m. or 30m.

If the Government had wanted to avoid, for reasons of diplomacy, making large political issues out of the Suez Canal, would it not have been possible for them to have agreed to facilitate oil supplies to Egypt on the understanding that the equivalent amount of oil was allowed through the Canal? Both on the oil and the financial side there must have been created in the Middle East by the Government a sense of great weakness. Unless satisfactory assurances were obtained from the Chancellor he ought to withdraw the agreement, and the House should make it clear in the Middle East that there was a line beyond which Britain could not be pushed.

Mr. Gaitkell defended the agreement by saying that it was a purely financial measure. He designated as "unjustified" the complaint that the agreement was unduly favourable to Egypt in comparison with Israel and Transjordan. The friction,

The rate of repayment under the new arrangement was from 50m. to 25m. a year, compared with an average of 25m. in the three previous years. This would substantially reduce the strain upon the economy. He could not say that all the features of the agreement were equally satisfactory, but both sides had made concessions. The Egyptians had asked for very much more than they were getting. Without a settlement a point would have been reached where the Egyptians would have presented a cheque which would have been dishonoured. If Britain had taken that course they would soon have found themselves involved in an economic war with Egypt. Should Britain really have come out of that war very much strengthened? Did the Opposition believe that in the present state of the Middle East friction of that kind would have brought improvement politically? It would have been a stupid policy. On financial grounds the agreement was highly satisfactory and Britain should have been extremely unwise to have provoked that appalling state of friction.

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Purim Concerts

During the Purim holidays Tel Aviv offered a variety of music, much of which was amusing.

Walter Goshw with the "Kol Israel" Orchestra performed Saint-Saens' "Carnaval des Animaux" at the Ohel Hall on Thursday. The imitation and character portraits of animals are ingeniously conceived, and evoked much laughter.

Another item on the programme was a performance of Schubert's B major symphony, written when the composer was 19. As a result of the penetrating and analytical work of the conductor, the orchestra revealed the full rhythmic and melodious joyfulness of this symphony. The second part of the programme consisted of works by Offenbach, Hannan Schlesinger, and Johann Strauss.

At the concert of the Israel